

248 TOWNS AND ARCHITECTURE OF THE HADHRAMAUT

565 half for the men and one for the women, each with their entrance, kitchen,
342 store rooms and granary on the ground floor, reception rooms and wash-
rooms on the first floor, and more private apartments with washrooms on
the second floor. There may be a third floor with terrace rooms, but
usually not more.

342 Although the span of the ceiling beams is quite small, as everywhere
353 else (about six feet, determined by the maximum size of timber available),
565 many of the rooms in these houses are very large, being divided up by
two, four, six or nine pillars. They have rows of three or four windows,
some even more, on two sides. The floors are covered with carpets, and
cushions against the walls are the only form of furnishing. There will be
niches with cups, silver samovars and brass trays; other niches with some
books; and a few large flat basket-trays hung on the walls, from which one
eats. But that is absolutely all that is needed. There are large wall closets
for clothing and for bedding, the normal place to sleep being the floor.
But there is no difference between a living-room and a sleeping apartment.
Each room serves for either purpose in turn, the men and the women
being separate. Nor are there clothes for the night and clothes for the
day, though the men wear beautifully laundered clothes, frequently
changed.

342 Washrooms consist of a spacious compartment, with glazed plaster
515 walls with niches and pegs for clothing. Near the window stands a tall
jar with water and a scoop for showering oneself. The water runs out
under the window through a runnel and gutter. Some washrooms have
a shower tank. The washroom may contain a lavatory of the south con-
tinental, foot-rest type, or this may be in an entirely separate spacious com-
partment. Each floor has at least two. Besides this the Saywun and
Terim house has a little "roman" bath for complete ablution about 10 feet
square, and which is usually near the private prayer-room.

342 Another pleasant characteristic of the Saywun house is that in the large
271 corridor that runs from one side of the house to the other; in front of the
window at the coolest end there is usually a corner for drinking-water
skins to hang up in a cooling draught. Niches for cups are at hand, and
again there is a runnel for the water dripping from the skin to run out-
side. The same arrangement is found on most terraces. Upper rooms are
used in summer, lower rooms in winter for warmth, for there is no glass
in the windows and only ill-fitting wood shutters to keep out the night air.

342 All these amenities will be found on a small scale in the most modest
houses. The house of the dhobbi had three floors. It contained about
four living-rooms, two washrooms, a kitchen and a store. So that where
space is concerned the Hadhrami house does not compare unfavourably
with European standards.

000 A film showing Hadhramaut buildings was followed by a vote of
thanks to the lecturer.

HADHRAMAUT, ADEN PROTECTORATE

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FIG. 17—Ruins of a pre-Islamic city in the Wadi Masila. The site was chosen for defensive purposes and each house was in itself a fortress.

HOT SPRINGS

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Hot sulphurous springs are widely scattered in the coastal zone, and fairly accurate accounts of many of them are available. They commonly deposit gypsum in quantity. Some of the deposits are so large as to suggest either that activity was more general in the past or that the position of the spring outlets has shifted. The springs may be attributed to the same subterranean conditions that prevail in Yellowstone Park, where descending waters become superheated through close association with uncooled rocks and rise again to the surface.

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Within half a mile of the coast of Hami, east of Mukalla, several hot springs are utilized by the natives for irrigation of date palms and millet and also for drinking. Neither here nor elsewhere does the



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FIG. 18—A view in the Wadi Masila where water is present during most of the year. The edge of the Jol appears in the background.

The way winds upwards out of the wādī; the mountains ⁰⁸⁰ here are no longer so precipitous and it had been possible to cut out a path on the slope about 300 feet above the bed of the wādī. It is a primitive path, but it has been improved here and there. We are going north-east and have the sun obliquely in front of us; it is a hot, constantly ascending stretch of road. Already at half past seven the Bedouins wanted to make a halt, but we prevented this by vigorous opposition, and it was postponed till 11 o'clock. We have passed a large well of water, ³⁶¹ el-Ghudūda, and see Zemān el-Kebīr on our right, lying close to the mountain slope. There are date and coco-nut palms, papaya and banana trees in the midst of neatly cultivated fields of tobacco. We make a halt at the next village, Zemān eṣ-Ṣeghīr, and find shelter against the merciless glare of the sun, in an empty stone building that seems to be intended for passing caravans.

Here we first made acquaintance with those pious institu- ³¹² tions for the protection of travellers against thirst, the *siqāyas*. ²⁷¹ Later on we were to travel from *siqāya* to *siqāya* and learn ⁸⁵ to look on these white, beneficent landmarks in nearly waterless stretches of country, with a greater thankfulness than at the beginning. We were only just at the edge of the dry, rocky table-land and could still give ourselves the luxury of a hygienic, critical standard in the matter of drinking-water. The *siqāyas* are small buildings, generally five feet square and six feet high, with a dome-shaped roof, made of natural stone or dried mud and whitewashed. About five feet from the ground there are square or triangular holes, through which by means of a cup one can scoop water out of the mason-work cistern, about six inches deep, which has been placed at that height in the *siqāya*. The filling of the cistern is attended to daily by one who is paid for doing so by the pious foundation (*waqf*) endowed for that purpose. In one of the openings in the walls of the *siqāya*, there is to be found the half of a coco-nut shell, a rusty tin, or an oblong wooden cup, with which one scoops out the water and from which one

312 drinks. One must accustom oneself as soon as possible to the
 ●271 fixed habit in this country, of drinking one after the other out
 485 of the same cup or bowl. Even among the very rich and the
 Sultans, the big earthenware drinking cups are passed from
 guest to guest. One sees the soldiers and slaves drink out of
 them too. The water in the *siqāyas* is often dirty, with a variety
 of odours and tastes; it also swarms with larvae and the like,
 but thirst soon teaches one not to notice them and the aversion
 diminishes in course of time!

In Zemān eṣ-Ṣeghīr we were able to buy milk, buttermilk
 (here called *rūb*); lemons, coco-nuts and bananas, but at high
 prices.

361 In the afternoon we proceeded and in a short time arrived
 311 on a plateau, fairly thickly covered with tufts of grass and low
 shrubs, where two villages, el-Ghēḍa and el-Ghiyāḍa, lie
 among well-cultivated fields of tobacco, surrounded by a small

342 grove of date-palms. The mayor of el-Ghiyāḍa is related to the
 439 family of el-ʿAṭṭās; we were therefore desirous of calling upon

him. The door of his simple, mud, mayoral residence was
 decorated with particularly fine carving. We were received in
 a little, dimly-lighted room that served both as a place for
 storing tobacco and as a reception-room. The mayor had been
 in Batavia for seven years and had there acquired some wealth
 in the *batik*¹ trade, which a son is now continuing. As soon
 as I was informed of this, I proposed to converse in Malay
 instead of in Arabic. Our host eagerly agreed and we were
 soon deep in reminiscences of Java. Meantime coffee was
 prepared, consisting for three quarters of ginger and for one
 quarter of coffee, and a great earthen bowl of cold water
 passed from mouth to mouth. These porous, unglazed bowls
 filled with water are placed in the small window openings, and
 the hot outer air causes the water which exudes through them
 to evaporate, thus cooling their contents. One finds the same

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¹ *Batik* is the name of the specially Javanese art of decorating and
 dyeing pieces of cloth used as garments. The thus decorated pieces
 are also called *batik*.

system of drinking- and at the same time cooling-bowls, 271 ● among poor and rich alike.

Our host spoke with longing of beautiful, rich Java and of 167 the good years that he had passed there, and it was obvious that he would have liked to return there but for leaving his family behind, for the Ḥaḍramī woman does not leave her country with her husband. It was clear, from the friendly fāre-well, that I had not been wrong in thinking that my years passed as a civil servant in Netherlands India would facilitate my travels in Ḥaḍramaut.

They all went a little way with us to see us off and were 133 photographed at their own request. We followed the broad 312 sēl-bed¹ crossing the plateau surrounded by terraces of about 300 feet high. There, where the plateau ends, lies, at a height of 50 feet the village of Ḥimem on a hill at the edge of the wādī to which it gives its name. At the foot of the hill, there are very tall coco-nut trees, the last that we shall see for the time being, for the altitude is already 3000 feet. A conduit full of water, fed by little springs at the edge of the wādī, irrigates fields of *dhura* and of neatly-planted and well-cultivated tobacco. It is true that it is not first-class Ḥumūmī tobacco that is raised here, but even so it commands a good market price.

The evening falls and we are obliged to camp soon after 133 leaving Ḥimem. The valley has here penetrated into the sand- 271 stone and the conglomerates under the eocene limestone. Here at a height of 3000 feet the nights are already cold. According to our Bedouins, who are good water-tasters, the water also improves in proportion as one gets further away from the coast; all salt and bitterness gradually disappears from it.

In our bivouac at Ḥimem we had to put away again a great 134 harvest of plants and insects; the swallow-tail butterfly was also found here.

The mayor of Ḥimem came to visit us in our camp. He told 249 us that his village of 200 to 300 inhabitants grows tobacco,

¹ The bed through which the water flows for a short time after rain.

000 nibq trees are scattered over the wādī. Shepherdesses with their little herds of goats seek shelter in their shadow from the heat of the sun. Sometimes we see them, with long sticks, busily hitting off the leaves, which the goats eagerly nibble.

After a march of quite two hours, two irreproachably dressed sayyids approach us, messengers for Sayyid 'Aluwī el-'Aṭṭās, who is of our party, to inform him that his relations in the valley of Hadhramaut had heard of our coming arrival, but had expected us to be already further on our way, and that Sayyid Abū Bakr el-Kāf of Terīm has sent two cars for us in the direction of Hurēḍa, the town of the 'Aṭṭās family, as they expected this to be our first goal. We now go on with fresh courage. We cross the wādī again to the left bank, the side on which Šif lies. Our Yāfi' soldiers insist that it is not safe here, and they beg us to wait for the camels and then proceed further in company. It is very hot, 39° C. in the shade, and the mountain against whose slopes Hadjarēn is built is still not in sight. In silence we trudge on over the hillocks of loess, which are higher than those we have passed. The rain-water has washed many channels into them. At last Djebel Hadjarēn, with its peculiar, sharp-edged, flat ridge comes into sight, and in a shimmering haze lie the palm-groves, like a green ribbon, at its foot. We push on now with fresh determination, in spite of the oppressive heat and the exhaustion of our animals. We think we are already there when we reach the edge of the cultivated land, but there is still a good distance to be covered, and walking through the dry irrigation canal is exceedingly hot and close.

- 271 At the first houses we ask for a cool drink; a porous earthenware bowl is handed to us, which we pass round and lift to our mouths with both hands, enjoying its cold contents
- 000 in long, greedy draughts. For a long time the way lies on top of the dyke, and then again through the dry irrigation canal. The donkeys can barely keep going any longer and we dismount. One of 'our Yāfi' soldiers takes my beast by the bridle and leads it along in our rear-guard, but, once there,

TO TERİM, THE HOPE OF ALL HADRAMAUT

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The great cleanliness of the houses of the rich is very ³³⁶noticeable. The drainage from lavatories and kitchens runs ^{27/0}down wide, square shafts into spaces destined for it in the lower floor, into which however, unfortunately, light penetrates so that they become good breeding places for flies. Bathrooms and also lavatories are partly fitted out as in the East Indies. Sometimes there are douches, and generally there are large brick cisterns for the bath water, which one scoops out to pour over oneself. Our host has a large refrigerator by means of which cold drinking-water is provided for the numerous guests and dwellers in the house, and fruits and sweetmeats become the refinement of pleasure.

Cooking in Terim, as in Sēwūn, is very much influenced ²⁵²by Singapore and Java. Chinese cooks are responsible for ⁷⁷the extensive rice meals that are enjoyed daily by dozens of guests. Many dried or tinned foods are imported from Java. Some kinds of vegetables are grown in the gardens of Terim; the fresh fruits which are served at table are large oval melons and the first ripe dates. As the latter are rather scarce, last years' dates come to table prepared as paste, in cakes, sweet bread, etc.

Sayyid 'Umar el-Kāf's house, like that of our host, is ³⁵²furnished in half-European style. Old-fashioned Indian rocking-chairs stand on the beautiful carpets. A bed, rigged up in the Javanese manner, decorates the great reception-room. The bed linen is not white, but pink. There are many mirrors on the walls and also photographs of the family's estates in the Indies. Sayyid 'Umar is the owner of the great Europe Hotel in Singapore; he shows us with pride — and no wonder — the model of the new hotel, which makes an impression magnificently American. The walls are further decorated with Mausers and American repeating rifles, which are hard to obtain in this country and, consequently, are worth a great deal.

It had already struck us that the Kathiri soldiers were ⁷¹⁴better clad than those of the Qe'ifi. The number of pro- ⁵¹¹
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